

CONGRESSMAN SHERWOOD BOEHLERT (R-NY)
TESTIMONY TO RULES COMMITTEE ON ENERGY BILL
April 19, 2005

Mr. Chairman:

Thank you for allowing me to appear before you today. I will be brief.

First, I want to thank the Leadership and the Rules Committee for protecting the interests and jurisdiction of the Science Committee as this bill was being assembled. We think this is a better bill as a result.

Second, it may be a better bill, but in my opinion, it is still not a good one. I oppose this bill as I have its predecessors. The bill represents a step backwards on energy policy, budget policy and environmental policy when we desperately need to move forward.

Third, I have an amendment that would move the bill at least some distance in the right direction. I ask that it be made in order. You have made related amendments in order in the past.

The amendment, which I am offering in conjunction with Congressmen Markey, Platts, Kirk, Gilchrest, Leach and Shays, would require increases in Corporate Average Fuel Economy (CAFE) standards to raise the average fuel economy of new cars in 2015 to 33 miles per gallon. Average fuel economy today is 25 miles per gallon. That one move would reduce our nation's gasoline consumption by 10 percent from what it would otherwise be in 2015.

I won't rehearse all the arguments for this amendment for you here, but let me just say that cars and light trucks account for 45 percent of the nation's oil use. And let me also point out that, despite what you may have heard, the National Academy of Sciences, has concluded that fuel economy standards could be raised to the level we are proposing without reducing safety and while helping consumers.

I hope we will be able to proceed with this important amendment.

Thank you.